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GREAT MEN.—(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It has been remarked, and all history sustains the remark, that great men are rare productions. But, we may ask, what idea do we generally conceive in our minds when we use the term "great man?" Without going into an elaborate answer to such a question, we may observe that the elements of greatness may be widely possessed, whilst means of using them to effect are but seldom at the disposal of individuals. So much of mere accident, adventitious circumstances, and uncertainty of life, influence human action as to render real greatness amongst the uncommon phenomena of human philosophy.

To be really great, a man must have the control over a powerful natural genius in himself, and also the supreme command over the nation to which he belongs. At long intervals of time such men appear, and form epochs in history. Such men were JULIUS CÆSAR, PETER the Great of Russia, FREDERICK SECOND of Prussia, GEORGE WASHINGTON, and NAPOLEON.

In their individuality these men were strongly contrasted; each had his own character distinctly marked. They were set apart in grand qualities; but in one trait they were in so remarkable a manner similar as to seem actuated by one mind. Whatever else were their respective views of policy, they all regarded the embellishment of their country as primary. If all but WASHINGTON were conquerors, what the others gained by arms they improved by the arts of peace. They were not actuated by a mere blind avidity to acquire, and at the same time destitute of the sentiment of improving what they spent blood and treasure to acquire. On the contrary, every one of these men left monuments on the surface of their country more durable testimony of real greatness than trophies of victory in the battle-field. And, as to military merit, they all shared the danger, if they reaped the largest share of glory won in war.

We were led into this train of reflection by seeing in and reading from a New York paper an article with the following epigraph:

"MADRID, SEPTEMBER 19, 1848.
"Highly important intelligence from Spain—
"Negotiations for the Cession of Cuba to the
"United States—Probable success."

We leave to the parties the task of reconciling the consistency of an Administration and its advisers in adding continental and insular regions to a domain, which, to improve when incorporated, they have regarded a breach of constitutional law.

How far the writer of the communication is correct or otherwise, in the subjoined extract personally applied, we leave to the decision of the employer and agent. We must, however, observe that in Europe no person is regarded as well educated if ignorant of the French language; and, as that language is in Europe the medium of diplomacy, we may well conceive the utter imbecility of most of our diplomatists as regards the object of their missions.

THE EXTRACT ABOVE REFERRED TO.

"As far as I can ascertain the facts, from the best diplomatic sources, and in every possible way, I learn that, in July or August last, the United States Government sent a despatch, through Mr. SAWYER, Secretary of Legation, addressed to Mr. SAUNDERS, the American Minister here, containing directions for him to sound the Spanish Government on their dispositions to sell or cede the Island of Cuba to the United States, and, if such a purpose could be accomplished, to commence negotiations as secretly and as fast as possible, so as to prevent opposition or hostility from the British or other Governments. Mr. SAWYER has been here for some time, and Mr. SAUNDERS, I understand, has been taking some steps in the matter, but, in consequence of his utter ignorance of the modern languages, either Spanish or French, he finds a great deal of difficulty in the way, and is thrown into the hands of other diplomatists, who will use the information which they receive through such a channel to defeat the general object of the mission. It is remarkable how the Ministers of the United States are selected; and the topic is frequently noticed among the diplomatic body in this capital and in other parts of this continent, that the American Government sends men as its representatives abroad who are utterly unacquainted with foreign affairs or foreign languages, and entirely incompetent to conduct important negotiations without the assistance of other diplomatists, who laugh and ridicule them, instead of selecting men suited by talent and education, experienced linguists, accomplished jurists, or natural diplomatists. I have not yet been able to learn the terms which the United States have offered for the cession of Cuba, but of the opening of negotiations for that purpose there can be no doubt. It is true that a short time ago some publication was made on the subject, denying any wish, on the part of the United States, for the acquisition of that island; but it was well understood, at the time the denial was made, that it was directed to some erroneous assertions on the general question, and the motive for putting it forth was to throw the British and other Ministers hostile to such a movement off their guard as far as possible. There can be no question, as I have already stated, of the opening of negotiations on this subject; but the success of Mr. SAUNDERS'S mission seems to be more susceptible of doubt."

MINNESOTA.

This is the euphonious name given to an extensive region lying north of Wisconsin and Iowa, in which, as Western papers advise us, a territorial government has been formed. Several prominent settlements have already been made within the bounds of the new Territory. The soil, for the most part, is represented to be very good, the country is finely watered and timbered, and the climate is milder and more genial than in the corresponding latitude in New England. We well remember—it was but a few years ago—when flour, pork, and potatoes were sent from this part for sale to the few families settled there now in the beautiful and flourishing city of Milwaukee. Iowa was then unknown, save as a wild hunting-ground of the Indians, and we remember publishing, by request, the proceedings at Dubuque—then within the limits of the organized States or Territories of the Union—of a self-constituted court to try a man accused of the few families settled there at that remote point, though beyond the jurisdiction of law, elected a judge, sheriff, and prosecuting attorney, empaneled a jury, assigned the prisoner counsel, tried, convicted, and hanged the murderer; and, to show that every thing had been done right, sent a certified statement of all their proceedings for publication. This was but little more than ten years ago. Now, Dubuque is a flourishing town in the limits of the State of Iowa. In a few years more the State, whose name sounds so strangely, will be knocking for admission into the Union as a sovereign State. Nothing in history surpasses or even equals the growth of the Far Northwest. The ear scarcely becomes familiar with the names of its Territories, and geographers are at a loss to define their limits on the maps that grace our walls, when like Minerva springing into life in full panoply, they challenge our admiration, as firmly constituted, prosperous, independent commonwealths. In truth, we have a great and glorious country. Its history is a romance, surpassing in its facts the wildest creations of fiction.—*Buffalo Com. Ads.*

WAR OR PEACE.

A vital question at issue in the present canvass is, *Shall we elect a War Man or a Peace Man?*

Gen. Cass declares that he "cordially approves of the administration of Mr. Polk, and will consider of his own election as an approval, by the people, of that Administration, which shall, therefore, give direction to his own." The conspicuous feature of that Administration, which the people are thus formally called on to approve, is War and Conquest. No thanks, we know, are due to Mr. Polk and his coadjutors (*"quorum magna pars,"* &c. was Lewis Cass) that we had not a war with Great Britain. That Administration is responsible for the war with Mexico, which gives as an "indemnity for the past" a national liability for two hundred millions of dollars, and a territory and military glory, for which the sacrifice of more than twenty-five thousand of our countrymen's lives as its price is a fearful and cruel mockery: as "security for the future," an exasperated neighbor, burning ever to be avenged of the blood and treasure which she considers to have been wrested from her by brute force; and, as further "security," the resurrection of the slavery dispute, which has already done more than ought else, and is now more than ever threatening to dissolve our Union, and drench our fields in the blood of civil war.

On these questions Mr. Cass went "farther than the farthest" to sustain Mr. Polk; and, by his votes and speeches, always on the side of "preparing the hearts of the people for war," proved himself emphatically a war man. Now that the world is rife with "wars and rumors of inevitable wars," would he not, as President, with Mr. Polk's thereby approved example, and an official intuition of "vengeance against England," have too much opportunity to gratify his propensity?

On the other picture: Gen. TAYLOR, in his Allison letter, *"I look upon you, at all times and under all circumstances, as a NATIONAL CALAMITY,"* TO BE AVOIDED if compatible with national honor. *"The principles of our Government, as well as its true policy, are opposed to the SUBJUGATION OF OTHER NATIONS, AND THE DISTEMPERMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES BY CONQUEST."* In his letter to the Hon. Truman Smith, of March 4, 1848, he proclaims: *"I AM A PEACE MAN, AND I DEEM A STATE OF PEACE TO BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO THE PROPER AND HEALTHFUL ACTION OF OUR REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS."* In his Ingersoll letter he considers "war a great calamity, and his the greatest glory who can terminate it."

It is good for us to look to the opinions of the sages of our country's "trying days"—the founders of the spirit and letter of our constitution—even as the mariner looks to the warning and the shoals of older seamen.

Mr. MADISON in the *Federalist*, page 550, Helvidius No. IV. records these words: "Every just view which can be taken of the subject admonishes the public of the necessity of a rigid adherence to the simple, the received, the fundamental doctrine of the constitution, that the power to declare war, including the power of judging of the causes of war, is fully and exclusively vested in the Legislature: THAT THE EXECUTIVE HAS NO RIGHT, IN ANY CASE, TO DECIDE THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE IS OR IS NOT CAUSE FOR DECLARING WAR; THAT THE RIGHT OF CONVENING AND INFORMING CONGRESS, WHENEVER SUCH A QUESTION SEEMS TO CALL FOR A DECISION, IS ALL THE RIGHT WHICH THE CONSTITUTION HAS ALLOTTED TO THE PROPER, and that for such, more than for any other contingency, this right was specially given to the Executive." [Oh, Messrs. Polk and Cass!]

"In no part of the constitution is more wisdom to be found than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislative, and not to the executive department. Besides the objection to such a mixture of heterogeneous powers, the trust and the temptation would be too great for any one man; not such as nature may offer as the prodigy of many centuries, but such as may be expected in the ordinary successions of magistracy. War is in fact the true nurse of Executive aggrandizement. In war, a physical force is to be created; and it is the Executive will which is to direct it. In war, the public treasures are to be unlocked, and it is the Executive hand which is to dispense them. In war, the honors and emoluments of office are to be multiplied; and it is the Executive patronage under which they are to be enjoyed. It is in war, finally, that laurels are to be gathered; and it is the Executive brow they are to encircle. The strongest passions and most dangerous weaknesses of the human breast—ambition, avarice, vanity—the honorable or venial love of fame, are all in conspiracy against the desire and duty of peace."

"Hence it has grown into an axiom that the Executive is the department of power most distinguished by its propensity to war; hence it is the practice of all States, in proportion as they are free, to disarm this propensity of influence."

"AS THE BEST PRAISE, THEN, THAT CAN BE PRO-NOUNCED ON AN EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE, IS THAT HE IS THE FRIEND OF PEACE—A PRAISE THAT RISES IN ITS VALUE AS THERE MAY BE A KNOWN CAPACITY TO SHINE IN WAR—SO IT MUST BE ONE OF THE MOST SACRED DUTIES OF A FREE PEOPLE TO MARK THE FIRST OMBEN IN THE SOCIETY OF PRINCIPLES THAT MAY STIMULATE THE HOPES OF OTHER MAGISTRATES OF ANOTHER PROPENSITY TO INTRUDE INTO QUESTIONS ON WHICH ITS GRATIFICATION DEPENDS. If a free people be a wise people also, they will not forget that the danger of surprise can never be so great as when the advocates for the prerogative of war can sear in a symbol of peace."

Much of this would seem to have been written with a retrospective and complimentary allusion to WASHINGTON, or a prospective one to Gen. TAYLOR, or perhaps both, as it is so applicable to either and both. Somehow or other, in spite of opposing politicians, an intimate moral likeness to Washington in Gen. Taylor will be constantly obtruding.

STATIONER, VIRGINIA.

SAN PETER OUTRAGE—A Dining "Belle."—A funny incident happened yesterday on the Lawrence cars. A substantial, wholesome looking Irish lady, was so intent in her conversation with a friend in the cars, just as they were starting from Lawrence, that she did not wake up to the reality until she was making a course for Boston at a twenty mile speed. The instant she perceived this she rushed for the door. Conductor Billings, a very gallant man, and exceedingly tender of woman kind, started to stop her, and arrived at the platform just as the frightened woman made her leap. Luckily the cars were upon the canal bridge, and as she shot out the speed of the train turned her over in the nearest of all possible positions, and then down she went, straight as a meal bag, bonnet first, into the canal. The dive was beautiful, and as she arose, puffing with fright, a board was thrown to her, and she soon found herself, dripping like a fat snail, upon dry land, notwithstanding her fall. She came up to the platform, and last night she came up in the cars, looking as nice as a sundewy, and calm as a summer morning. Great doubt has been expressed as to the probable result of the tussle, had the gallant conductor succeeded in clasp her before the leap was made. (Lewell Journal.)

In some newly-opened coal mines at Northrop, England, a live coalpit was discovered in a piece of coal, and lived two days after being taken out. The insect and the coal were sent to King's College, London.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Having at length some respite from the toils and troubles which a long session of Congress always brings with it to a daily paper at the seat of Government, we gladly avail ourselves of it to make some acknowledgment for the many favors we have received from our friends the booksellers and publishers. It will, we hope, afford some relief to our readers too, to find, amidst the heavy columns of political discussion, a "platform" of light variety, upon which Whig and Democrat, Old Hunter and Barnburner, may stand on equal terms. Unrestricted by parliamentary rules, it is the privilege of literary criticism to exercise the fullest liberty of speech without having its personal motives called in question, and—alas! that we must confess it—without restraining by its censure the licentiousness of author or publisher. On the contrary, its praise and its blame alike redound to the interest of both; for public curiosity is as much excited to read a work pronounced to be of dangerous tendencies as it is recommended for its persuasive incentives to virtuous and moral improvement.

"A COURSE OF SIX LECTURES ON ASTRONOMY," delivered in the city of New York, by Prof. O. M. MITCHELL. Specially reported for the New York Tribune by Oliver Drexel, Photographic writer. New York: Greeley & McElrath, Tribune Buildings, 1848. 8vo. pamphlet, pp. 31.

"Views of Astronomy." Seven Lectures delivered before the Mercantile Library Association of New York in the months of January and February, 1848. By J. P. NICHOL, LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in the University of Glasgow. Reported for the New York Tribune by Oliver Drexel, Photographic writer. New York: Greeley & McElrath, Tribune Buildings, 1848. Octavo pamphlet, pp. 41.

"Popular Lectures on Astronomy," delivered at the Royal Observatory at Paris. By M. ARAGO, Member of the Institute of France, &c. With extensive additions and corrections, by DIONYSIUS LARDNER, LL.D., formerly Professor of Astronomy and Natural Philosophy in the University of London. Third edition. New York: Greeley & McElrath, Tribune Buildings, opposite the City Hall, 1848. Octavo pamphlet, pp. 96.

The progress made in the United States within the last two or three years in the study of astronomy, the noblest and most useful of all the sciences, has been so extensive and important in its results as to attract the notice of nearly all the celebrated astronomers of Europe, to raise into envied prominence some of our young compatriots, and to reflect the highest honor upon our country. Many of our readers no doubt enjoyed the gratification of listening to the eloquent professors whose lectures are here so well reported. They attracted universal notice, and it is but echoing the public voice to say that they well merited the general approbation they received.

To those who have ever looked into astronomy, either as an amusement or as a professional study, the labors and services of the French astronomer M. ARAGO must be too familiar to render it necessary that we should recommend his "Popular Lectures." They were designed to offer inducements for the more general study of the science, and are therefore adapted to the capacity of every person of education. The translation of them could not have fallen into better hands than those of Dr. LARDNER, who was himself for so long a time a popular lecturer on the same science and with the same views. He has not only corrected some errors into which every extemporaneous lecturer, however qualified, is liable to fall, but has added numerous remarks and comments, tending to explain and illustrate the meaning of the author.

"Lives of the Queens of England, from the Norman Conquest; with anecdotes of their Courts, now first published from official records and other authentic documents, private as well as public. By JOHN STRICKLAND. Vol. XII. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848."

This volume closes the series of Mrs. STRICKLAND'S biography of the Queens of England, and is entirely occupied with the life of Anne, the last sovereign of the unfortunate Stuart family, commenced in the preceding volume. The author's reasons for not continuing her work to a later period will be regarded as abundantly satisfactory, when it is remembered that the head of the present reigning dynasty was the successor of Anne, and that it would be difficult, if not impracticable, for her to obtain the same free access to original letters and private papers remaining in the hands of descendants, as she has evidently enjoyed in the prosecution of her work to its assigned limits. These Lives being republished in this country by Lea & Blanchard as a part of the "Ladies' Cabinet Series," have been extensively circulated, and are to be found in almost every library in which any attempt is made to keep pace with the literature of the day. There are few persons perhaps to whom the same facilities would have been afforded for the performance of such a task, and certainly none who could have executed it in a more unexceptionable manner.

"Laws and Practice of all Nations and Governments relating to Patents for Inventions; with tables of fees and forms. Also, an editorial introduction, with explanations of practice and proceedings used in procuring patents throughout the world. Compiled and edited by JAMES L. KINGSLEY, C. E., and JOSEPH P. PINSON, C. E., Patent Agents. &c. New York: Kingsley & Pinson, No. 5 Wall st., 1848." Octavo pamphlet, pp. 200.

This will be found a most useful book of reference, not only to inventors, but to the numerous patent agents who find employment in the extraordinary genius of our countrymen for hitting upon new inventions to benefit the world. It is the only work of the kind we have seen, and is certainly of a character to make it very acceptable to all whose business it is to be acquainted with the laws relating to patents.

"The Son of the Wilderness. A Dramatic Poem, in five acts. By FREDERICK HALL, (Baron Münch-Bellingshausen.) Translated from the German by Charles Edward Anthon. New York: Printed for the Translator by H. Ludwig & Co., 1848." 12mo., pp. 166.

This drama is replete with beautiful outbursts of nature, in its worst as well as noblest forms, and contains numerous passages of rich and touching pathos. The thoughts are altogether German, and in the general language of its author could not fail to excite deep interest. Whether, however, it will ever gain the popularity here as a stage play which it is said to have had in Vienna is questionable; not from any defect in the English dress it wears, for the translator seems to have performed his task faithfully, but from the wide difference in the theatrical taste of the two countries.

We observe that the gentleman to whom we are indebted for this translation has been recently appointed professor of modern languages in St. John's College, Annapolis.

"The American Quarterly Register and Magazine. Conducted by JAMES STRICKLAND. Philadelphia: E. C. and J. Biddle."

This is a most valuable addition to our periodical literature, well deserving the patronage of the public, which we sincerely hope it may receive in sufficient amount to ensure its continuance.

"The History of the French Revolution of 1789. By LOUIS BLANC, author of 'France under Louis Philippe,' &c., Member of the Provisional Government. &c. Translated from the French. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848." Octavo, pp. 322.

This is the "first part" of the first volume. "Two parts will make one volume." But it comprises two volumes of the ten which will complete the original work now in the course of publication in Paris. The author is well known to the reading public, and has acquired considerable reputation for the originality of his speculations on the causes of historical events and controlling motives of human action. He could not have chosen a more inexhaustible subject of philosophical theory than the Revolution of 1789. Thousands of volumes have been written upon it, and yet the world is as far from being agreed as to its remote and proximate causes as in the beginning. Mr. BLANC carries his researches further back than any other of its historians—far perhaps for any mind less philosophical than his own to trace the connecting links in the chain of causes. We look upon all such inquiries as utterly

worthless for any purpose that can benefit mankind. They serve to show the indefatigable industry of the author, the peculiar spines of his mind to analysis, and the vast stores of intellectual treasure which his labors have laid up; and to those who have leisure for such speculations his work must be acceptable.

"Letters of Mrs. Adams, the wife of John Adams. With an Introductory Memoir by her grandson, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS. Fourth edition, revised and enlarged, with an appendix, containing the letters addressed by John Q. ADAMS to his son on the study of the Bible. Boston: W. Linscott, Carter & Co., 1848." 12mo., pp. 474.

The Letters of Mrs. Adams have been some time before the public, and the reception they have met with is the proof of the fact that the present is the fourth edition. Nothing could be conceived more appropriate as an appendix to these Letters than the "Letters addressed by John Q. Adams to his son on the study of the Bible." In them we see the direct fruits of the early instruction he received from his excellent mother. We think that Mr. Charles F. Adams could not render a more useful service to the rising generation, or pay a nobler tribute to the memory of his father, than by giving these eleven letters separately in some cheap form, that would place them within the means of possession by every family in the United States.

"Jane Eyre; an Autobiography. Edited by CURVEN BELL. Boston: W. Linscott, Carter & Co., 1848." 12mo., pp. 483.

This is one of the most interesting romances of the year, possessing great originality of conception, much diversity of character and variety of incident, many novel scenes most graphically depicted, and numerous evidences of talent and genius capable of something higher and more useful than the best romance that ever was written.

"Readings for the Young, from the works of Sir WALTER SCOTT. In two volumes, with plates. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848." Vol. I., pp. 344, vol. 2., pp. 312.

The selections are well chosen, the volumes neatly got up, and the plates well executed. There is another merit in these "Readings," too, not always to be found in "dignified extracts"—each article is so selected as to form a complete episode in itself, and the reader otherwise unacquainted with the voluminous works of Scott may form from these gatherings a very fair estimate of his unrivalled genius as the founder of a new branch of literature.

"Chemical Technology; or, Chemistry applied to the Arts and to Manufactures. By Dr. F. KNAFF, Professor at the University of Giessen. Translated and edited, with numerous notes and additions, by Professor WALTER R. JONES, of Philadelphia. Vol. I., illustrated with two hundred engravings on wood. Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1848." Large octavo, pp. 504.

This is a most valuable work, grouping together all the most recent discoveries of chemistry, so far as they can be made applicable to the arts and manufactures, and thus saving both time and money to those who are employed in those branches of industry. This first volume contains an illustration of some of the most interesting processes of chemistry; interesting not only in a philosophical point of view, but in the importance of their results to the comforts of man. It cannot fail to prove particularly acceptable at the present season of the process of combustion, from which we derive both heat and light. Almost every day introduces some new invention by which these two indispensable items in our social economy may be supplied to us at an expense in inverse ratio to their intensity. So much indeed has been gained within a few years past in the methods of using fuel, that it scarcely seems to be an Irish ball to imagine that a stove or a furnace may be long brought into use, containing within itself a principle of perpetual calorification, which, like a clock or a kitchen jack, will only require to be wound up to keep us warm and cook our meals for the twenty-four hours.

It would be a great mistake to suppose that this work, because it has a hard name of Greek parentage, is only to be understood by the man of science or the scholar who carries a lexicon in his head; on the contrary, it may be read with advantage by the poor man who makes his living by burning charcoal, for it would explain to him, in language that he would readily comprehend, that the best and surest method by which he could always make it of uniformly good quality that would ensure him the readiest sale and highest price. The work, indeed, is designed for the humblest manufacturer not less than for those engaged in the higher branches of art; and the illustrations furnished by the engravings are so plain that no master of his business will find any difficulty in profiting by the improvements they are designed to recommend.

PRINCE GEORGE'S AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

The annual Fair of the Prince George's Agricultural Society was held on Wednesday and Thursday last, at Upper Marlborough. The Gazette of that place says of it:

"The scene presented by the assemblage of hundreds of gentlemen and ladies from this and the neighboring counties, and District of Columbia, gave evidence of the great interest in Agriculture and Improvements, and the large collection of animals of various kinds, fruits, flowers, domestic manufactures, implements, &c., were calculated to inspire the beholder with a sense of the utility and importance of agricultural societies."

"The contributions of the ladies were both useful and beautiful. The display of fruits, flowers, and vegetables, excelled the rich collections of former years. The sick yard was filled with superior animals, affording ample proof that the attention bestowed on raising improved animals has more than compensated for the care and expense. A most interesting feature of this branch was the competition for the 'Calvert Premium.' It will be recollected that the liberal and zealous friend of agriculture, C. B. CALVERT, last year offered to give the male calves of his celebrated Durham stock, free of charge, to such gentlemen as would engage themselves to exhibit them for the premium of the Society annually for three years. Eleven gentlemen availed themselves of the offer, and the committee who passed upon the calves speak in the highest terms of their appearance. They have made an interesting report on the subject."

"The Society has been annually indebted to Dr. BAYNE and THOMAS DECKERT, Esq., for their splendid assortment of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, which they have been pleased to exhibit for the premium of the Society annually for three years. Dr. B.'s collection of fruits, flowers, and vegetables certainly excited any thing ever shown in Prince George's, and many were the compliments paid to the taste displayed in the arrangement of the beautiful wreaths of flowers over his table."

"On the second day the annual address was delivered to a large and intelligent audience by Gen. TAYLOR, of Talbot county. It was a production of much merit, and was well received by the audience. The Society have ordered it to be printed in a pamphlet with the proceedings of the Society."

"Every thing connected with the exhibition passed off pleasantly, and the friends of the Society have reason to believe that it will go on and prosper, and every year add new evidences of its utility and importance."

"Among the most gratifying circumstances attending the exhibition was the presence of the venerable patriot and farmer, GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKER CUSTER, who had quit his quiet retreat at Arlington to evince the interest he felt in the agricultural prosperity of his native country."

The following additional particulars of this interesting exhibition are copied from a contemporary print:

"Dr. PATNEY made an able report on farming. Colonel CAPRON'S farm was highly complimented in the report. It appears that he sends every day to Washington and Baltimore 150 gallons of excellent milk."

"The first premium on farms was awarded to Col. CAPRON, the second to Col. JOHN D. BOWLING, the third to Mr. JAMES SONNENFELD."

"The premium for the best mutton was awarded to W. W. BOWIE, Esq."

"The vegetables were of the most extraordinary size and of superior quality. An excellent dinner was served up by Mr. HARRIS, and several animated addresses were made by the Hon. Mr. JEFFERSON, C. CALVERT, W. W. BOWIE, T. F. BOWIE, and other gentlemen. Mr. Calvert's speech was an able vindication of the plater's claim to the patronage of the State. His remarks were well received by the company, who spent a few hours very agreeably at the social board."

COMMUNICATION.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: The recklessness and desperation which the Locofocos exhibit in all "their doings and sayings" clearly demonstrates to every reflecting mind the utter hopelessness of their cause. Ever since the brilliant victories won by Gen. TAYLOR on the Rio Grande, which lit up the world with their glory, and presented him in his true character to the American people as emphatically the man possessing all the solid and substantial qualities of head and heart, at this trying juncture of our national affairs, as most fit to preside over the destinies of this great nation, the Locofocos have evinced a bitter hostility to this glorious old chief, and directed to themselves and disreputable to the age in which we live. Ever since James K. Polk, in his message to Congress, in December, 1846, studiously avoided an honorable mention of Gen. Taylor in connection with his brilliant achievements in Mexico, a studied system of misrepresentation, calumny, and abuse has been pursued towards him by the party, from their greatest orator down to the most contemptible slang-whanging demagogue on the stump, and from the official organ (the "Union") down to the most obscure village sheet in the country. But of all the reckless and barefaced misrepresentations of the character of Gen. Taylor, an article in the Richmond Enquirer of the 18th instant caps the climax for cool impudence and downright falsehood. Its impudence is cool in attempting to palm such stuff upon the people for truth, and its falsehood is glaring, contradicted as it is by the history given of that wonderful battle by those who participated in it. The article is headed "Rough Notes on Mexico, by a Virginia Volunteer," and discourses as follows: "The battle of Buena Vista is the next great event in this second conquest of Mexico. So disadvantageous were the 'positions pointed out by Gen. Taylor for his different bodies of troops, that every regiment was driven from its ground, and compelled to take up new positions to contest the battle. A ditch, sixty yards in length, behind the knoll just in the rear of Washington's battery, filled with the American dead, will for ages be pointed out as a memento of the blunders of the Commander-in-chief. Gen. Wool or Gen. Worth would have won the battle in two hours. The very men were they to do it. Poor Clay, and Harding, and Lincoln, and Zabriskie, and whole companies of their men were slaughtered by the Mexican lancers while retreating to more favorable positions to continue the fight. Gov. Yell was killed in a charge four miles in rear of the first line of battle, in an attempt to retrieve the fortunes of the day."

"Capt. Bragg, with his 'charmed pieces,' at the first onset was stationed where he could do neither good nor harm; but, taking another station, he was enabled to clear the whole field, and his, with Col. Washington's cannon, drove back the countless hosts of Santa Anna."

"The pretty anecdote told of Gen. Taylor riding up near Capt. Bragg and ordering him to 'give them more grape,' reads very well in the newspapers; but it is amusing to see the ridiculousity of Capt. Bragg's countenance when asked if the tale is true. Every body who knows the two officers knows that Capt. Bragg knew what to do in his situation better than Gen. Taylor could tell him. Gen. Taylor was never nearer Capt. Bragg than forty yards, just in his 'rear,' &c."

This wicewar, who, if he correctly represents himself as "a Virginia Volunteer," was not only not in the battle, but never even smelt powder during the Mexican war, states that the victory at Buena Vista was gained, not in consequence of the generalship displayed by Gen. Taylor upon that occasion, but in spite of his blunders; and, to gratify his partisan feelings, indulges in this wholesale slander in face of the testimony of Capt. Bragg, Gen. Belknap, and all other participants in that bloody battle who have given an account of it. Gen. Belknap says: "We all expected to give Santa Anna a battle at Agua Nueva or in its immediate vicinity; but Gen. Taylor kept his own counsel. On the morning of the 21st, however, orders were given to fall back to Buena Vista, when Gen. Taylor explained to me his views: 'We know (said he) that Santa Anna is short of provisions; he knows precisely our position, and he expects to fight us this afternoon. This morning, therefore, he will probably give to his soldiers all his remaining rations, promising them a support from our stores. Now, then, we will fall back to Buena Vista, where I always intended to give him battle. He will arrive here to-night with his men tired and hungry; and to-morrow they must make a hard day's march, and fight us upon empty stomachs, and thus lessen the enormous disparity between our forces.' We moved accordingly, (adds Gen. Belknap,) and to the foresight and strategy of Gen. Taylor, as well as to his indomitable coolness and daring on the field of battle, is measurably attributable our unparalleled victory."

Capt. Bragg, in a speech, said: "To the General-in-chief his acknowledgments were especially due. He inspired the whole army with valor and confidence by his presence, not only at Buena Vista, but from the opening of the war on the Rio Grande. It is almost impossible for you, gentlemen, (he said) to understand the character of that man as a commander of an army. There is a resolution, a firmness, a determination in his manner and in his purposes that go a great way in leading men to victory. The battle was fought; you know the result; but you never can know the influence that the presence of Gen. Taylor had upon the army. He alone, so he seemed to me, could have inspired, by a presence, every soldier in the army, as the volunteers were inspired. The confidence in him was complete. He had commanded volunteers before, and had been successful with them. He had never surrendered. He had never been whipped, and the idea got abroad that he never could be. When manœuvring my pieces against the gullies, (I cite this as an example of that confidence,) I saw clouds of dust about two miles from me. I was painfully anxious. I thought Gen. Minon had fallen on our rear and attacked our depots, and to meet him was my first thought. A man came galloping up through the dust into sight, screaming 'Old Zach is coming!' Every soldier gave involuntary utterance to his feelings. 'Old Zach came, and in fifteen minutes the tide of battle was turned. Four thousand five hundred men repulsed twenty thousand. And to the influence of that presence, under God, I think I am alive here to dine with 'you to-day.' How effectually does this eloquent statement of facts, by two of the heroes who were in the hottest and thickest of the fight, explode the slanders of this anonymous scribbler in the Enquirer!"

The rabid partisans and leaders of the Locofocos are not content with stigmatizing Gen. Taylor as an ignoramus, and as "a man without opinions or principles to guide and govern him," but the Union and its satellites sneer at him as "a man of so little energy or aptitude that he was some forty years in rising from a lieutenant to the head of a regiment, and who has only within a few years been promoted to the command of a division;" and its echo, the Richmond Enquirer, publishes in its columns that the slaughter of the gallant officers and men who fell at Buena Vista "will be for ages pointed out as a memento of the blunders of the commander-in-chief;" that Generals Wool and Worth could have won the battle in two hours; and that the victory was won in spite of Taylor's blunders. Such wholesale slander and abuse will recoil upon the heads of its authors. So far from lessening the admiration of the warm-hearted and patriotic people of the country for the glorious old hero, it only adds fuel to the flame of their admiration for the man and gratitude for his services, and makes them the more determined to put the capstone upon his honor, by elevating him to the Presidency. Yes, "Old Zach is coming," as at Buena Vista, when the cohorts of the enemy were bearing down upon our devoted little army, threatening every moment to annihilate them. The shout was raised, "Old Zach is coming!" when the tide of battle was turned; so, on the 7th of

November next, when the cohorts of the Locofocos, with their trained bands of office-holders, rush upon the standards of the people, they will raise the shout that "Old Zach is coming!" and with that gallant old chief at their head, who never surrenders and never lost a battle, they will achieve a triumph over their enemies as signal and effective as the rout of the Mexicans upon the field of Buena Vista. And, if we are to judge the future by the past, we may expect to see T. Ritchie, Esq., eat his own words as he did in the case of Gen. Jackson. When the hero of New Orleans was first a candidate for the Presidency Mr. Ritchie violently opposed his election; he deprecated his election "as a curse upon the country, and said, 'Andrew Jackson is a soldier, but he is a statesman.'" "Where," he asked, "are the evidences of it? Where are his political speeches, his public documents? He is too self-willed, too much of a tyrant, ever to be the ruler of a 'free people.'" He said he "admired Gen. Jackson's modesty. When discovering his want of qualifications he retired from the public councils; but could not say much for his modesty when he aspired to the highest office in the gift of the people;" and with holy horror he exclaimed, "What! elect a man to the Presidency who cannot interpret the plain expressions of one law, yet would be called on to administer 'all the laws of the land.'" Such was the abuse he poured upon Gen. Jackson; but when the people, neither regarding his abuse nor heeding his advice, elected him President, no man could excel T. Ritchie in his praises of Gen. Jackson "as one of the greatest statesmen and rulers in the world." So, I suppose it will be in the case of Gen. Taylor, when he goes into the Presidential chair with a more unanimous vote than any other man save the Father of his country. He will then be in the eyes of T. Ritchie a second Washington; he who is now "a man of so little energy and aptitude that he was some forty years in rising from a lieutenant to the head of a regiment, and who has only within a few years been promoted to the command of a division," will be the greatest General the world ever saw; and this man, now "without opinions or principles to guide or govern him," will be the greatest statesman and ruler in the world. But *non verbum*.

A TAYLOR DEMOCRAT.

FRENCH AFFAIRS.

M. GAILLARDET, formerly Editor of the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, published at New York, but who is now a resident of Paris, has a long letter in the